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TO: Secretary of State

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NIACT

Embassy telegram 20, July 27.

Congress today approved 30 days state of siege declared by JUNTA pursuant to which Minister Defense imposed emergency measures including curfew and limitations on right of assembly.

Lemus has shown me document found among possessions of assassin Romeo Vasquez Sanchez. It is essentially Communist political testament dated July 19. It recounts Vasquez's life, illusions, disappointments and admiration for Soviet Union and asserts his intention assassinate Castillo Armas but there is no indication he acted pursuant Communist Party instructions. Incoherent ramblings of document indicate unbalanced mind. Other evidence includes correspondence by him with Radio Moscow.

Although Vasquez was dishonorably discharged from Guatemalan Army in 1955 he entered Palace Guard June 1 this year. Efforts are being made establish responsibility for his employment which presumably attaches to military officers of Presidential Staff. It appears due to gross negligence.

New President Luis Arturo Gonzales is moderate man friendly to US anti-Communist respected as lawyer and instinctively liked by all who know him. He is completely identified with Castillo program and he told me today he plans carry it out with Castillo team. However, Gonzales may not have forcefulness required to deal with complex political problems lying ahead. At moment he has support of armed forces but this support is primarily for position he occupies in conformity with constitution. While there is talk in some army circles Gonzales is too weak continue as President for very long and will be replaced by military Junta, the army is behind Minister Defense Oliva whose authority will shore up Gonzales.

While MDN suffered serious blow in loss of Castillo there is no indication at this moment Arbenzista Arevalo group has any prospect of return to power by force or elections. Despite loss

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-2- 22, July 27, 9 p.m., from Guatemala City

Despite loss of Castillo as anti-Communist symbol GOG is expected to be equally opposed to Communism.

SPARKS

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